



NEWS RELEASE

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South Hutchinson Approved For USDA Housing Programs

Affordable Housing Availability To Improve

South Hutchinson, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced today that the City of South Hutchinson has been approved to be eligible for the Agency's affordable housing programs. South Hutchinson's eligibility announcement, allowing the City's residents to access USDA's housing programs, was made in conjunction with USDA's recognition of National Homeownership Month.

"USDA Rural Development looks forward to working with the residents of South Hutchinson and other eligible parties to improve the availability of more affordable housing in the community. The Agency has excellent programs to assist eligible Kansans with their homeownership, rental or home repair needs. Providing qualified individuals and families the opportunity to improve their current housing situation is essential for those who wish to enjoy the American Dream. Affordable desirable housing is a key component to improving lives, building personal prosperity and improving communities, commented State Director Banks at today's announcement.

USDA Rural Development's announcement allows eligible applicants to participate in the Agency's single-family and home repair programs. The Agency's rental housing programs will also be available to eligible developers, investors and nonprofit organizations. During Fiscal Year 2007, USDA Rural Development delivered nearly \$128 million in housing program funding and technical assistance to individuals, families and communities; eligible locations include rural areas and most towns of up to 20,000 in population.

James Dull, representing City of South Hutchinson Economic Development remarked on the announcement, "The City is very pleased to become eligible as a partner in rural development through the USDA. Eligibility to participate in USDA development programs will open doors to those seeking loans for home purchases and home repairs in our community. This will have a positive impact for home buyers, lending institutions and the entire community. We are thankful for the new opportunities this will create for people wanting to invest in their own homes."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$1.2 billion to Kansans covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$6 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State. For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency's area office in Newton at 316-283-0370, or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – Committed to the future of rural communities.

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